

10/518398

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1) (Currently Amended) A closable opening device (4) for a sealed package (1) of a pourable food product, said device (4) comprising:

- a frame (15) fitted about a pierceable portion (10) of said package (1) and defining a through hole (16);

- a removable threaded cap (17) which screws onto said frame (15) to close said hole (16);

- a tubular cutting member (18) engaging said hole (16) and having an end cutting edge (31) which cooperates with said pierceable portion (10) to unseal said package (1);

- first connecting means (32, 33) for connecting said cap (17) and said cutting member (18) so as to rotate said cutting member (18) during rotation of the cap (17) to unscrew the cap off said frame (15) when unsealing said package (1); and

- second connecting means (24, 26) for connecting said frame (15) and said cutting member (18) so as to move said cutting member (18) along a spiral path through said pierceable portion (10) in response to said rotation of said cap (17);

characterized in that wherein said cutting edge (31) comprises a main blade (36); and at least a number of first teeth (37a) which, proceeding along said cutting edge (31) in the opposite direction to the direction of rotation of said cutting member (18), are located downstream from the main blade (36); said first teeth decreasing gradually in height so as to act successively on said pierceable portion (10).

2) (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein said main blade (36) has a cutting side (38) facing in a traveling direction of said
cutting member (18) with respect to said pierceable portion (10) and sloping backwards.

3) (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in Claim 1 or 2, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein the first teeth (37a) decrease linearly in height as of said main blade (36).

4) (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in Claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein said first teeth (37a) have respective ends lying along a line (L) sloping less than
said spiral path (T) of said cutting member (18).

5) (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in Claim 3 or 4, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein one of said first teeth (37a), located adjacent to said main blade (36), is the same
height as said main blade (36).

6) (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in ~~any one of the foregoing Claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein said cutting edge (31) of said cutting member (18)
comprises a number of second teeth (37b) located on the opposite side of said first teeth
(37a) to said main blade (36).

7) (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in Claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein said second teeth (37b) are all the same height, and are at most equal to the
minimum height of said first teeth (37a).

8) (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in Claim 6 or 7, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein said cutting edge (31) of said cutting member (18) comprises an auxiliary blade (42)

having a circumference which is 3 to 7 times the width of one of said first or second teeth
~~(37a, 37b).~~

9) (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in Claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein said auxiliary blade (42) has a cutting side (44) facing in the traveling direction of
said cutting member, and having substantially the same slope as the sides of said first and
second teeth ~~(37a, 37b).~~

10) (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in ~~any one of the foregoing Claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein said frame (15) comprises a cylindrical collar (20) for
receiving said cap (17) and defining said hole (16); and in that said second connecting
means comprise an inner thread (24) of said collar (20) and an outer thread (26) of said
cutting member (18).

11) (Currently Amended) A device as claimed in ~~any one of the foregoing Claims,~~
~~characterized in that~~ Claim 1, wherein said frame (15) and said cutting member (18) are
molded in one piece in a preassembly configuration in which they are joined coaxially with
each other by breakable joining means (30).